Seizure of Leopard and Tiger Claws

*33. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether 18000 leopard claws and 132 tiger claws were seized in January, 2000 from Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken to establish immediately specialized wild-life agency to tackle such wildlife crimes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal is under consideration in the Ministry for setting up of a special mechanism for wildlife trade prevention and control to deal with the poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and it's products.

(c) Does not arise.

Quantitative restrictions on import of Urea

*34. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic fertilizer industry has requested Government not to remove quantitative restrictions on urea import;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) The Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) have in different memoranda to the Government requested on behalf of the industry that the quantitative restrictions on import of urea should not be lifted for another five years and the removal of restrictions should be accompanied by levying of import duty on urea.

(c) Under the commitment given by the country to the World

Trade Organization, the quantitative restrictions on 1429 tariff lines, including urea, are to be removed by April 1, 2001. However, there is no bound rate on urea and thus the country is free to decide on an appropriate tariff rate and such other measures as may be necessary keeping in view the national interest.

Opening of professional colleges by Railways

*35. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are contemplating to establish and run engineering and medical colleges exclusively for the children of Railway employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when such colleges would be established;

(c) whether outsiders would also be admitted in those colleges;

(d) if so, what would be the criteria; and

(c) the names of States chosen for the above project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) No decision has been taken yet.

Protection of Environment and Forests in Maharashtra

*36. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for protection of environment and forests in Maharashtra in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of measures contemplated to be taken during the said Plan period to save the forest products; and

(c) what quantity of honey and other products of forests have been collected during the years 1997 to 2000, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Allocations arc made to the States